

# Commercial

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## The Weekly Pacific Commercial Advertiser

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## THE PACIFIC COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER.

Tuesday, Sept. 2, 1884.

### DROP THE CURTAIN.

The Opposition gave its final wobble Thursday morning, and then expired. It was a fitting close to its political history, an appropriate ending to a career where so much had been attempted and nothing accomplished. The Indemnity Bill was the special order of the day, but up to 10:30 there was not a quorum present. The gentlemen of the Opposition had concluded to stay away with the honorable exceptions of Nobles C. R. Bishop, J. Mott Smith, and Representatives Richardson and Sanford B. Dole, who evidently did not coincide with the other gentlemen of their party in the belief that the public business should be neglected because the Indemnity Bill was before the House. They took their seats, and spoke and voted against the bill. The amendment introduced by J. Mott Smith was unanimously accepted, and the Indemnity Bill was passed.

Now, if the members of the Opposition party had mustered and registered their votes against this bill, we are sure the gentlemen whose opinions they represent in this community would have had much more respect for them. We cannot imagine what they hoped to accomplish by neglecting their duties to the people. It was, to say the least, a childish, sulky way of displaying their animus. It placed them in an absurd light, and but confirmed the generally entertained opinion that their fight from the beginning to the close was badly managed.

We declared that a good healthy liberal-minded opposition was a most valuable adjunct to good government. We deplored the personal nature of the contest, and showed how much more effective a fight would be made were the acts of the Ministry, and not the Ministers, assailed. But nothing under heaven could have deterred certain members of that party, egged on by gentlemen as malignant as themselves, from neglecting the true issues of the work before them in their efforts to pillory one man. And this is the result. At almost the last day of the session the fiasco is crowned with an abortive effort at political filibustering, for the tactics of Thursday's proceeding come under that head. Ring down the curtain, for we have seen the last act. Turn the electric light on the closing tableau, and keep the boys in the gallery from making a noise. Let the audience feel about for their umbrella checks, for the play is over, and they will go out in the rain directly. It began as a tragedy, and the first scene was ushered in amid gloom and thunder. It ended as a farce, though the materials for the tragic were there, but the actors were deficient in their parts. Put out the lights, call the gentlemen's carriages, shove the squeaking little *Bulletin* (which acted as the orchestra) into its green baize bag, and let us thank the Lord that we have received our money's worth.

### THE KING AND THE NEWSPAPERS

MR. S. M. DAMON has written a letter to the *Bulletin*, which appeared in the columns of that journal last Friday. Mr. Damon's theme was the attitude of the *Bulletin* towards the King, and the propriety of discussing His Majesty in that or any other newspaper. He says:—

"Hawaiian etiquette, and the customs of all monarchical states, forbid that the chief of the state should enter the newspaper arena and defend his reputation and his honor, which you so ruthlessly assail."

"Another answer might be, that to discuss His Majesty's supposed acts in the manner your paper directs, is not only to throw a slur upon him publicly, but it re-acts by casting a lasting stain upon the people."

We perfectly and sincerely agree with Mr. Damon. We like the tone of his letter, which is manly, logical and straightforward. He places himself on neither one side or the other, but quietly and forcibly points out the error of which the journal he addresses is guilty. He might have added that because the Chief of the State is forbidden to enter the newspaper arena, to attack him is cowardly. But Mr. Damon, as a Hawaiian subject, simply criticises the act of the newspaper without condemning the sentiment, though the inference of the condemnation is plain enough. Again, he says:—

"One more answer to your question, and this is—does not your question, and especially what follows your question, simply prove that the party to which you belong has forsaken their principles, and the principles which guide all countries with a constitutional basis, when it asserts that the question of responsibility can be transferred from the representatives of the people and the Ministers of the Crown, to the throne? It would seem that you are willing to yield the very essence of liberal ideas."

Mr. Damon gets to the very kernel of the argument when he speaks of the attempt to transfer the responsibility from the Representatives and the Ministers to the throne. Now, let us see what the *Bulletin* has in reply to this dignified and convincing argument. Magna Charta, that ancient apology for all sorts of indecency which has been handed down to anti-Government newspapers from time immemorial. If the syndicate of lawyers, the bright glowing legal intellects which stands behind this nasty

little circular, editing it, advising it, and dumping into it all their malignity, could make no better reply, we would not employ them to defend a lame cur arrested for vagrancy. We can adduce no stronger arguments against the course of this sour-brained publication than Mr. Damon has offered. "Were I alone," he says, "in these ideas, I would not pretend to address you on this subject, but I feel that I have the support of many of our sober-minded and intelligent citizens of all nationalities, who would, in common with myself, deprecate all attempts to impeach the honor of the Sovereign."

But the impeachment of the honor of His Majesty from such a source is a compliment. Praise and commendation would indicate that the Sovereign of these islands and the *Bulletin* syndicate are harmonious on some points, and this supposition would be the most grievous and unpardonable insult that could be offered His Majesty.

### "PERNICIOUS FOREIGNERS."

A recent letter from Mexico contains the following: "Mr. P. M. Sanvalle, editor of a French paper called *Trait d'Union*, having, in several issues of that paper, made insulting remarks about the country and the President of the Republic, etc., was, as per Article 33 of the Mexican Constitution, expelled from the country as a 'pernicious foreigner.' He was taken a prisoner, and sent as such to the fort at Vera Cruz, where he was kept in close confinement until the sailing of the American steamer for New York, with instructions never to return to Mexico."

The necessity of dealing with the "pernicious foreigner" seems to have been overlooked by King Kamehameha V and his councillors. True ways and means have been found to rid the country of such people. The thing was easy and not uncommon in the old days of a despotic monarchy, ruling under the influence of such men as Bingham, and the custom in a modified form has descended almost to our own day. Only of late years it has been necessary to lay traps for the unwary feet of such foreigners as become "pernicious" in the eyes of influential people, such as harassing them with prosecutions on trumped-up charges and so forth. The old methods are, however, pretty nearly played out, and it might be well if the Assembly used the leisure which the King has afforded it to frame a constitutional amendment, modeled on Article 33 of the Constitution of Mexico. We mention this in the interests of the Independent party, who tell us they are sure to come into power before many years are past. When that time arrives they will want to get rid of some of the "pernicious foreigners" who are plaguing them at present, and it will be well for their conscience if these modern Bingham should have an "Article 33" available, instead of having to resort to crooked ways for the accomplishment of their objects, and, after all, the chagrin of failure added to their remorse.

It is not probable that if we had this Mexican law here any foreigner would be likely to find himself in Mr. Sauvalle's position for the offense of making insulting remarks about the country and the King. In this highly developed community, it is reserved to the chickens hatched in the land to busy themselves with the fouling of the nest.

THE insufferable heat of the weather is seriously imperilling the immortal souls of this community. We have heard with grief some of our most religious people use curse words when toying with their moist brows.

### BACKING DOWN.

M. Ferry's demand that China pay an indemnity of \$5,000,000 for the attack on French troops at Langson, was outrageous. The attack was unauthorized by the Chinese Government, which offered a prompt apology and a reasonable indemnity. But the French Premier affected the greatest indignation in the presence of the Chinese Ambassador in Paris, almost refused to listen to any explanation, and talked as though nothing short of the annexation of the whole celestial empire would appease France.

Evidently he had forgotten the time when Julius Fevre and Adolph Thiers pleaded for mercy at the hands of Bismarck when the German armies were encamped within the walls of Paris. Although Bismarck had a thousandfold better reason for exacting the pound of flesh than M. Ferry, he showed an infinitely better temper, more courtesy, and more generosity and forbearance. France had been the aggressor. The great statesman only proposed to punish her and make her pay the cost of the war. In this case China is no aggressor. She is the victim of French ambition, and because she cannot help herself in the Tonquin matter, M. Ferry proposed to take advantage of her weakness. Compared with his demands, those of Germany were the promptings of a benevolent heart.

Fortunately for China, however, still more fortunately for the reputation of France, M. Ferry has decided to be less exacting. He will not declare war or require the annexation of the Chinese empire; he will be satisfied with the payment of an indemnity of \$800,000. This smacks somewhat of reason. While the sum demanded is more than enough to recoup France, China will probably be quite willing to pay it. She has no ambition to become involved in a war with France, and to avoid it, she will be willing to submit to unfairness.

### AMATEUR DOCTORS.

This community is sadly given to the vice of amateur doctoring. A man afflicted with a boil or the prickly heat, or any other disorder, no sooner mentions it to his friends than he is surrounded by a crowd of amateur medical advisers. It is curious when one comes to think of it, that people should be so exceedingly ready to set about the remedy of anything amiss in the system, either of themselves or those about them. If a man's kitchen clock wheezes and whirs a little, and presently begins to betray a difficulty in getting along, he will admit at once that he does not know what is the matter with the thing, and will have the clockmaker ordered in to attend to it. If his watch gets a little slow, and does not seem to be amenable to the regulator, he will not even run the risk of touching it here and there with a little sweet oil; or if his piano gets out tune in only a note or two, he does no dream of investing in a tuning hammer and putting it in order himself. He does not understand the business, he will tell you, and might do more harm than good. But if his own internal mechanism begins to wheeze a little, and to show symptoms of running down, if he himself feels somehow a little out of tune, he will go to his friends and they will tell him all about it. Physicians are often charged with killing many of their patients, but it is doubtful if they kill more than amateur doctors.

THE *Bulletin* calls us "a lone star of wretchedness in the vast void of outer darkness." God help us. We feel as if we had been run over by John Brown's odorless excavator.

### A MELANCHOLY RECORD.

When, some years hence, the members of the present Opposition are seated in their *lanais*, and their children are gambolling about their knees, those worthy gentlemen will tell their offspring to amuse themselves by firing out a cabinet. With that concession of age to childhood, which is so touching and graceful, they will relate to them the history of the Legislature of '84. The sportive little ones will begin by fixing up with their blocks a Finance Committee report. After citing their playfellows, who may be selected to represent the cabinet, to appear before them to answer for a misappropriation of chocolate creams, they will move a resolution of want of confidence, which will be voted down, the cabinet voting for themselves, and they will then adjourn for a grand torchlight procession. But, jesting apart, what a sad bungle the Opposition has made of a good fight. All its self-glorification cannot obscure this fact. Its triumphs are purely imaginary. It claims to have slaughtered a bank bill, which one of its prominent members introduced, and which both parties sat on with the only feeling of unanimity exhibited during the session. It assumed that a sensible and magnanimous message from the King was a slap at the Cabinet, and it turned out with blazing torches and fooled itself most magnificently. We do not question the honesty of its intentions, nor do we doubt that some of its members acted from pure convictions. But it all went wrong, and after the first month got an attack of the dry rot which eat out all its energy.

Even yesterday Mr. W. O. Smith adopted his old tactics of attacking His Majesty. This was totally uncalled for, and in decidedly bad taste. It seems that when some of the orators of that faction grow tired of jabbing away at everything appertaining to the Government, they concentrate their abuse on its head, whose impartiality in the entire struggle must be unquestioned. We have asked before what can they hope to gain by this policy? What have they gained by it, what could any party gain by assailing the individual in whom the power of acceding to their desire is vested? The record of their achievements is the best answer. They have accomplished nothing, they have achieved nothing, and fighting with such principles—making personal animosity paramount to everything—their record could wear no other complexion than that of disaster and defeat.

CAPTAIN H. W. MIST has assumed editorial charge of the *Hawaiian*, succeeding Mr. D. W. C. Nesfield, who has accepted charge of the local department of the ADVERTISER—a position he is eminently well qualified to fill. However, Mr. Nesfield is too well known by his work in this community to need any praise from us. Mr. Brown, whom Mr. Nesfield succeeds, will act as head book-keeper and general business manager of the ADVERTISER. This is about all the newspaper gossip we know, though there is a rumor that we are shortly to have a weekly illustrated journal which will take the vilest liberties with the names and pursuits of the good business people of this community, and keep the lawyers busy with libel suits.

THE *Gazette* made a weak attempt last week to revive the Gordon controversy. No use we must find out something new. Gordon has been worn threadbare, and the ADVERTISER has, of course, triumphed. The very latest European telegrams prove that our position was perfectly correct from the start.